



Bloomington Maintains Triple-A Status

City Awarded Top Ratings from Bond Agencies

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Bloomington— The City of Bloomington was again assigned the very highest ratings by all three rating services, ranking with an elite few cities nationwide that hold three triple-A bond ratings. The City maintains its Aaa from Moody's, AAA from Standard & Poor's and AAA from Fitch Ratings, the highest bond ratings awarded by these agencies.

All three rating agencies noted the City's strong financial management, low debt burden and thriving local economy as reasons for earning high ratings. In its report, Fitch said "The city benefits from strong financial practices reflected by its sophisticated, proactive financial planning, above average reserves and consistent financial operations." Moody's also noted the City's "consistently well-managed financial operations and strong reserve levels." Standard & Poor's considered Bloomington's management practices such as regular budget reporting to the City Council and multi-year financial forecasting as strong, well-embedded and likely sustainable.

At an October 17 City Council meeting, Springsted, the City's financial advisor, presented bond sale results and highlights from the credit rating agency reports. Springsted's Terri Heaton said the rating agencies are very cautious when they give upgrades, especially at the triple-A level, and that it takes the City working in one direction to achieve the highest ratings.

“It’s for only the most pristine credits - and Bloomington has three [triple-As], which reflects the strong performance over several years and the long-term assessment of where you’ll be,” Heaton said. “City officials and staff deserve credit to achieve and retain three triple-A ratings.”

For many years, the City has engaged in long-term financial modeling and developed strategies to deal with economic downturns. This type of modeling allows the City to see which longer-term reinvestments and renewals are needed and what level and manner of services to provide over the long term.

“Modeling allows the City to react in the shorter term and make the necessary changes to deal with economic cycles,” Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler said. “The City’s strong financial position coupled with long-term budgeting strategies helps us manage in good and bad economic times.”

The City’s excellent bond ratings signal current and potential investors that our financial future is strong and ensure interest costs will remain low. It also signals businesses and individuals that Bloomington is a financially healthy community.

To view the general obligation bonds presentation, visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Finance.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us.